

Appl. No. 09/978,409  
Amdt. Dated June 25, 2003  
Reply to Office action of January 29, 2003

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action of January 29, 2003. Reconsideration of the rejections of or objections to Claims 1, 3-5, 7-10 and 12-19 is respectfully requested. By this Amendment, Claims 1, 4-5, 7, 9, and 12 have been amended. Claims 2, 6 and 11 have been cancelled. The claim amendments do not add new matter. Allowance of the claims of this application is requested.

#### **§ 112 Rejections**

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 9 and 10 as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112 is respectfully requested. The Examiner notes that the term "an and" is ambiguous. Claim 9 has been amended to remove this and other ambiguities. Claim 10 is directly dependent on Claim 9 and contains no additional ambiguities.

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claim 18 as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112 is respectfully requested. The Examiner notes that there is no proper antecedent basis for the term "said annular plugs". Claim 18 has been amended to remove any ambiguity.

#### **§ 102 Rejections**

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claim 1 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102 by U.S. Patent 4,389,817 to Olberding is respectfully requested. Claim 1 has been amended herein to include the limitation from Claim 2 (now being cancelled), a door having a substantially continuous peripheral surface. Additionally Claim 1 has been amended to include two sealing members which form a substantially continuous seal around said peripheral surface of said door when said door is closed. Olberding does not disclose a seal completely around a peripheral surface of a door. Reconsideration is requested.

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claim 3 as being anticipated by Olberding is also requested. Claim 3 depends directly on Claim 1 which is believed allowable for the reasons stated above.

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Reconsideration of the rejection of Claim 4 as being anticipated by Olberding is also requested. Claim 4 depends directly on Claim 1 which is believed allowable for the reasons stated above. Additionally Claim 4 has been amended. Claim 4, as amended, includes a generally U-shaped member with an outwardly facing surface that comprises a major portion of a sealing surface. Claim 4 also includes a threshold with an outwardly facing surface, substantially coplanar to the outwardly facing surface of the U-shaped member, which completes the substantially continuous sealing surface. Olberding does not disclose coplanar surfaces on a U-shaped member and a threshold which create a substantially unbroken sealing surface.

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claim 19 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102 by U.S. Patent 3,921,225 to Suska is respectfully requested. Claim 19 has been amended to be directly dependent on Claim 12 which has been rewritten in an independent, allowable form.

#### **§ 103 Rejections**

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claim 17 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103 over U.S. Patent 3,921,225 to Suska is respectfully requested. Claim 17 has been amended to be directly dependent on Claim 12 which has been rewritten in an independent, allowable form.

#### **Claim Objections**

Claims 5, 7, 8 and 12-16 were objected to as being dependent up rejected base claims. Claim 5 has been rewritten in an independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Claim 7 has been rewritten in an independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Claim 8 is directly dependent on rewritten Claim 7. Claim 12 has been rewritten in an independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim. Claims 13-16 are directly or indirectly dependent upon Claim 12.

#### **Allowable Claims**

Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the indication of allowability of Claims 20-26.

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**CONCLUSION**

For the reasons set forth above, Claims 1, 3-5, 7,10 and 12-19 patentably and unobviously distinguish over the references of record and are in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested. A separate request for an extension of time to respond to the Office Action of January 29, 2003 is attached to this submission. No additional fees are believed due in connection with this amendment. However, in the event additional fees are due, the Examiner is authorized to charge deposit account 03-0172.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

6/25/03

James Balme



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